Exhibit A

--1. (4x amended)A method for evaluating the ability of a compound to inhibit neurotoxicity which comprises:

(a) contacting a cell which [overexpresses] expresses (i) a receptor for advanced glycation end product (RAGE) protein and (ii) a mutant presenilin-2 protein with the compound,

wherein the cell is in a cell culture and is selected from the group consisting of a neuronal cell, an endothelial cell, a glial cell, a microglial cell, an astrocyte, a neuronal tumor cell, a PC12 cell, a mononuclear cell, a mononuclear phagocyte, a smooth muscle cell, a bone cell and a myocyte, and

wherein the mutant presenilin-2 protein causes increased basal apoptosis in [nerve growth factor-differentiated PC12 cells] the cell;

(b) adding amyloid-beta peptide to the cell culture to induce cell death;

(c) determining the level of cell death in the cell culture; and

(d) comparing the level of cell death determined in step (c) with the [amount] level of cell death determined in the absence of the compound so as to evaluate the ability of the compound to inhibit neurotoxicity.--

--11. (3x amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound which inhibits neurotoxicity in a cell [by inhibiting the interaction between receptor for advanced glycation endproduct and mutant presenilin-2] which expresses receptor for advanced glycation end product (RAGE) and mutant presenilin-2 identified by the method of claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.--

--36. (2x amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the [DNA encodes] cell expresses human RAGE.--

--37. (2x amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the [DNA encodes] cell expresses N141 mutant presenilin-2.--